

Balkans between ethnic Albanians and ethnic Serbs. I chair the Albanian Issues Caucus in the Congress and have done extensive work in the Balkans and extensive work in Kosovo. I believe that ultimately the situation in Kosovo can only be resolved through self-determination. The people of Kosovo have to have a future and have to understand that they have the right to determine their own future.

The ethnic violence which happened yesterday is a tragic undertaking, a tragic tragedy, and I must call on both sides to stop the violence. Violence is never a solution to anybody's perceived problems or indignities. It must be solved peacefully.

However, having said that, I think that the violence that erupted yesterday was inevitable, and it was inevitable because in 1999, when the United Nations came in, including our troops, and prevented genocide, prevented Slobodon Milosovic from his ethnic cleansing, from cleansing Kosovo of its Albanian population, we stepped in and prevented that from happening. And that was a wonderful thing that we did. However, since that time, very little has been done to move to a resolution of the final status of Kosovo.

When there is no resolution of the final status, the people in a country become restless because they see no future. They see no end point. They only see the status quo. And we have become the status quo in that country. UNMIK, the United Nations, and NATO have to be seen as people who are resolving this issue, who are moving it to final status to give the people of Kosovo hope. Right now there is rampant unemployment. Right now there is very little hope for a future. That has to end.

Self-determination and, ultimately, independence for the people of Kosovo is the only solution. When people do not see a chance for self-determination, tensions fester beneath the surface when you do not move to resolution.

What we have seen with the United Nations, with UNMIK and NATO, is this ridiculous plan called standards before status. To me, it only means status quo. We put forward benchmarks and we tell the people of Kosovo they have to achieve these benchmarks before we can even look at a resolution and at self-determination. And somehow or other, something always intervenes, the benchmarks are never there, so the status is never achieved and we delay, and we delay and we delay, and we push it to the back burner.

I very much regret that our administration has pushed the whole issue of Kosovo to the back burner. It needs to be on the front burner. We need to resolve this problem. We need to give the people of Kosovo hope. We need to have a resolution. Self-determination is what is needed, and we need to push that; not be pushing off the day of reckoning again and again and again and again.

And let me tell my colleagues why self-determination and, ultimately, independence is the only solution. There are only two other solutions, which do not work. One is to have Kosovo go back under Serb control. That will never happen after the ethnic cleansing of 1999. The overwhelming Albanian population will never, rightfully so, accept it. Secondly, the only other alternative would be for Kosovo to continue to be an international protectorate, which is what it is now, with troops of many countries there, United Nations troops and NATO troops. That cannot happen indefinitely. So the only solution is independence, and the only solution is to give the people of Kosovo some hope.

So I would hope that the administration would move to resolve this problem now, to give the people of Kosovo hope for the future. The status quo only aids and abets violence. And while we are at it, we have to resolve the whole situation with privatization. The people there have to know if they invest in property for the future, to help the people there, they must know that it will be secure.

So, again, I want to condemn the violence, I want to show my sympathy for the victims of the violence, but I want to again tell the administration that we need to ratchet it up and come to a resolution of final status for the people of Kosovo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE GOVERNOR MIKE O'CALLAGHAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week, with the passing of Governor Mike O'Callaghan at the age of 74, Nevada lost a giant who helped shape our State's history, Las Vegas lost one of its most compassionate and articulate voices, and I lost a friend and someone who was like a second father to me.

When I first met Mike, I was a 19-year-old college student in Las Vegas. At that time, I was student body president of UNLV, and for whatever reason, Mike O'Callaghan saw something in me that I did not even see in myself. He became my mentor and a trusted friend. Of all the giants in the State of Nevada, he was head and shoulders above them all, and I have never known a finer man in my life.

Born Donal O'Callaghan on September 10, 1929 in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Governor Mike, as he was affectionately known by all that knew him, was a member of the greatest generation.

Raised on a farm during the Great Depression, he joined the Marines at 16 and served with the Pacific Fleet as an anti-aircraft gunner from 1946 to 1948. After ending his active duty in 1948, Mike served in the Marine Corps Reserve until 1950. And then he joined the Air Force as an intelligence operator and was assigned to the Aleutian Islands. In 1952, he joined the Army infantry so that he could serve his Nation in Korea. It was during this conflict he earned a Silver Star, a Purple Heart, and a Bronze Star with a V for valor.

According to an official Army account from February 1953, and I quote, "While his company was being subjected to a barrage of heavy artillery from Chinese Communist forces during a night attack, Sergeant O'Callaghan was informed that men on an outguard post had been cut off by this enemy action. Immediately, he voluntarily exposed himself to enemy fire, located the men, and brought them, together with a wounded member, safely back to the trenches."

After taking a direct hit in the leg by a mortar round, Mike made a tourniquet out of telephone wire and continued to direct the firefight for the next 3 hours. As a result of these wounds, his left leg was amputated below the knee.

After military service, Mike attended the University of Idaho, and in 1956 he graduated among its top 10 graduates. He then moved to a small community in Nevada by the name of Henderson where he taught high school economics and history and coached boxing. It was as a teacher and a coach that Mike came to know a young man named Harry Reid, who now serves as a distinguished senior Senator from the State of Nevada and that body's assistant minority leader.

Mike also served as Las Vegas' chief probation officer and as director of Nevada's Health and Welfare Department. Later that year, he moved to Washington, D.C. to serve as Job Corps Conservation Centers program management director, a position he held until 1966.

Despite being labeled the underdog, Mike ran for Governor of Nevada in 1970. His hard work and record of service ultimately propelled him to an unexpected victory. Four years later, he earned the respect and admiration of even those who did not give him a chance the first time and he rode a wave of popularity to the polls and was reelected to a second term. He remains to this day the choice of many Nevadans who, when asked, will say he was our Nation's and our State's greatest Governor.

Throughout his 8 years in office, he was a hands-on leader and a relentless champion for those he served. He was known to make surprise visits to prisons, mental hospitals, and other State-run institutions, and could often be seen eating in the cafeteria so he would know firsthand what life was like for those in those facilities.